



# *News Release*

**For Immediate Release**  
Friday, July 30, 2004

## **CROW TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS**

A dead crow found in the town of Brighton has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV), according to Monroe County health officials. Monroe County is the 17<sup>th</sup> county in the state to detect WNV in birds this year. There has been one human WNV case in New York State this year. There have been no human cases in Monroe County this year.

“We fully anticipated West Nile virus to return this season. Finding a positive bird serves as an important reminder for residents to be cautious over the next several months,” said Monroe County Health Director Dr. Andrew Doniger. “The public has been a key partner in our efforts to address WNV by reporting dead crows to us and by draining standing water where mosquitoes breed.”

WNV protective recommendations:

- Minimize outdoor activity between dusk and dawn
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants to cover exposed skin
- Use insect repellent containing DEET; be certain to follow manufacturer’s instructions and wash off once inside for the evening
- Drain standing water on property to reduce breeding areas

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), very few mosquitoes – less than 1% – carry WNV. If bitten by an infected mosquito, less than 1% of people will become seriously ill. The majority of people infected will have no symptoms at all; others will have mild flu-like symptoms.

People over the age of 50 and those with chronic illness are at highest-risk for serious illness. Although there is no vaccine or specific treatment, if a person develops severe symptoms, such as high fever and headache, they should consult a doctor.

Residents can report dead crows by calling a 24-hour information line – **(585) 234-9600** – or report them online at [www.monroecounty.gov](http://www.monroecounty.gov). A small number of crows will be tested this year; others can be disposed of in the trash once they have been reported to the Health Department.

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